

Children's Hope International

Spring 2010

**This Summer's Reunion
Bringing Safe Water to Villages
Special Children Waiting for a Home
Partners in Hope**

**The students at
Bright Hope School
will soon be learning
on a full stomach**



HOMES, HEALTH AND HOPE FOR CHILDREN IN NEED

2010 REUNION

The year 2010 marks a year of our Biannual Reunion and a return to our print newsletter. We are excited to be so personally in touch with you through these pages and soon in person!

While the economic rebound is not yet complete, couples considering adoption are feeling stable enough to return to their dreams of family. Wait times to adopt a child are often still over a year in most countries (while others are nearing 4 years), but those longing for family are adjusting with changed expectations. We are busy again with eager families applying to adopt. Ethiopia and Colombia are expanding, Russia is experiencing shorter wait times and a surprising number are applying to adopt in China despite the present long wait.

Two things to note: Special children with needs are readily available and when your paperwork is ready, wait times are shorter. Also we are now accepting families to adopt in Bulgaria, Kazakhstan and Ukraine, while renewing our license in India.

Partners in Hope

Over the last 10 years, Children's Hope with adoptive families and friends has given \$10 million to "Homes, Health and Hope to Children in Need". Thousands of orphans and the poorest children have received heart and orthopedic surgeries. Dozens of drilled wells give fresh water to those without and thousands of children have received an education that could not otherwise afford it. We thank God for you, whom we call Partners in Hope. This world is a much better place because of you!

These economic times may have reduced the income to help children, but it has not reduced the needs or the number of those needing the help. We are so thankful for you who faithfully partner and give health and hope to this great challenge. Visit HelpAnOrphan.org for some inspiring reports.

Dwyatt's Desk

Will we see you in St. Louis
for the 2010 Reunion July 10?
I sincerely hope so!

God's love and peace to you,

Dwyatt Gantt, Executive Director

SUMMER • July 10, 2010 • REUNION

ST. LOUIS, MO QUEENY PARK INDOOR ARENA

Registration form on page 3 or ChildrensHope.net
\$15 for the entire family pays for the air conditioned arena
and entertainment – Bring your own drinks and lunch

Ethiopia

Now Home

“The wait seems so long and so hard, but once that referral comes, all the stress, heart-ache and everything else just sort of fades away. I know everyone probably says that, but it is true. Nothing compares to that moment when you see your child’s face for the first time.”

-Renee & Brian Coffey, adopted Esme (pictured) in Sept '09

With 46 adoptions during the first three months of 2010, along with the 37 families receiving referrals, the Children’s Hope Ethiopia staff has been extremely busy but happy to see so many families completing in this short period of time.

The beginning of 2010 has been full of travel for families in our Ethiopia program.

Audra Koning told us about her February trip to adopt sisters from Ethiopia:

“We absolutely loved staying at the Children’s Hope - House of Hope Guest House. The staff was amazing and the fact that our girls knew the staff made the transition even more amazing!

They played with the girls, interpreted for us, and even gave them pep-talks before bedtime (from what I could tell, it was about being good, minding your parents, and how God had blessed them with a family). The food was amazing.

The staff went out of their way to make sure we were well-fed and taken care of. They emptied our trash, brought clean sheets and supplies, and provided a happy, clean atmosphere that helped us focus on our children. They truly love these kids.

The friendships that were established with the three other families staying at the guest house are for life! We shared a part of our lives that will tie us together forever.”

Adoptions from Ethiopia

- 110 Adoptions in 2009
- 74 Adoptions in 2008
- 10 Adoptions in 2007

Registration Form

Children’s Hope National Reunion

July 10, 10:30AM to 2:30PM

St. Louis, MO - Queeny Park’s Indoor Arena

Parent’s Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____
 Guests Attending
 Names: _____

Children Name	Age	Country
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

\$15.00 per family (covers building rental – please bring your own lunch)
 Send check and this registration form to:

Children’s Hope, Attn: Reunion, 11780 Borman Dr., St. Louis, MO 63146 www.ChildrensHope.net



The Education of Clean Water

- India / US

The students of Immaculate Conception School of Old Monroe gave as part of a special mission day project; the parents of Promise Christian Academy students donated to a group gift, while the kids at Assumption Church School sold Rice Krispy treats in a large bake sale; all of these activities in the first two months of 2010 added up to thousands of villagers in India now having access to clean safe water.



Michelle Howdeshell (u-left) with students and Principal, Sue Schutz, Immaculate Conception School of Old Monroe, MO

These three schools used different methods of raising funds, but all came up with more than the \$650 needed to bore a shallow fresh water well. Assumption Parish School raised enough for four wells!

Getting your school or church involved is easy. Children's Hope Church/Community Outreach, helps establish project campaigns within church bodies, schools and community organizations. Churches in Montana, Missouri and Florida are actively supporting the Bright Hope School Garden project in Ethiopia, while churches and professional groups in Ohio, New Jersey and Arkansas raised funds for surgeries in China.

What a wonderful way for you to make a difference. Contact us; we'll walk you through how your group can partner to buy chickens, help complete a heart surgery or bore a well.



Watch as your projects are completed!
blog.HelpAnOrphan.org

If you would like to receive regular Partners in Hope E-News, Let us know!
Communications@ChildrensHope.net

Children's Hope Church / Community Outreach

Call Cory
 314-812-1703

PARTNERS IN HOPE?

Your monthly support provides nutrition, medical care and quality education.

- Personal Partners
- Business Partners
- Partners in Faith

Partners in Hope for India, Vietnam, Ethiopia and China

HelpAnOrphan.org

The Long Walk Out of Poverty

Kakinada, India

Every night, 11-year-old Prasad dreams of becoming a physician. So every morning, Prasad joins 75 other children from his impoverished fishing village, for the nearly two mile walk to school. Dressed in their sharp school uniforms, they step very proudly from their huts since many of them are the first person in their family to attend school. Prasad and his classmates are more than willing to take this trek twice a day to receive a free education provided by Mission

to the Nations; an education that can give them a chance at escaping the poverty of their village. But during the monsoon season, this nearly two mile walk to school, along the Bay of Bengal, is extremely difficult and uncomfortable. These kids from the village of Dummulapeta, and hundreds of other students from other fishing villages and slums, miss weeks of their studies and nutritious meals because of the long walk. They need a ride.

"We need one or two buses so I can help our current students stay on track with their studies and help many more children with a free education," says Papparao Yeluchuri, founder of the schools.

Nearly 7000 children attend one of the seven schools for kids who were once wandering the streets, begging, or surviving as child laborers. All are from poor families who can not afford the other available schools. The children are provided two uniforms, books and a lunch every day at school. Prasad is a good example of a child who is benefiting from this free education. After his



mother died from TB, he moved into his aunt's one room hut because his father would not provide for him. When he was recruited to attend school, he was malnourished and was suffering from TB. But now Prasad's favorite subject is science, since he aspires to be a doctor.

India-Partners in Hope

\$40 uniforms & school supplies for one student

\$50 new text books

\$900 supports one teacher for one year

\$1,000 to help buy a 40 seat bus (total project \$27,000)

HelpAnOrphan.org

Ethiopia: Bright Hope Update

The 2100 students at Bright Hope School in Addis Ababa are drinking clean fresh water again. It has been almost four years since safe drinking water was available at the school.

After the drilling hit water in late October, pipes were laid so water would flow toward the vegetable garden location, the designated area for the three chicken houses and to multiple

spigots available to the students for washing and drinking.

Also, construction on the first chicken house began in January. The mini-farm project will provide a laying house, chick house and rooster house. This self-sustaining chicken hatchery at the Bright Hope School will provide meals with fresh eggs and chicken for all the students.

The preparation of the vegetable garden and fencing began in early April. We still need some partners to help fund this self-sustaining nutritional project for this desperately poor community.

You can help buy chicken feed, fertilizer, vegetable seed and construction materials. Use the attached envelope or HelpAnOrphan.org.



Colombia

Alejandra Adelman, was adopted from Colombia in 2008 when she was 9-months-old. She is now 2 1/2-years-old.

"The adoption was wonderful. She is right on target for everything," says Debi Adelman. "Colombia takes such great care of the kids and preparation for the adoption."

The Adelmans recently started their second adoption process from Colombia, in order to adopt a younger brother for Alejandra.



RUSSIA

Party girl, Bossy. Best hugs ever. Charming. Loves her "running shoes". Gregarious. Eats cherry tomatoes like they're candy. Energetic = underatement.

“Love You Much”

My heart leaps for joy when I see her. To say that I love her just doesn't seem to describe the full sense of the word. The Greeks have several words to distinguish love, and poets have innumerable ways of describing love towards others. The love I feel is more of a melting sensation. I get lost looking into Anya's eyes these days, those perfectly shaped, sparkling ocean blues.

She seems to have only pure joy and happiness, and I just want to crawl in there to experience for myself what it is that she finds so magical. She is magnetic and it makes me want to protect her with all of my being from anything or anyone who might extinguish even a little bit of her essence.

Travis and I feel God's extreme favor in placing Anya into our family, and we feel like we got the best child ever adopted. I laugh, but it's totally true. She's all ours, and no one else can have her. All glory to God for the wonderful gift He has graciously placed in our family. Happy Gotcha Day, Anya!!

-Amy & Travis Raish, adopted Anya in September '08 from Tver, Russia

Why They're Special

By Ginny Burkhart, mother of three children from China

As my husband and I were first learning about international adoption, I was truly afraid of the term "special need". Our first adopted child, Andrea, came home at 9-months-old and I was so happy that she was perfectly healthy.

But as I began to meet more and more adopted children with special needs, my heart softened towards these precious kids. So much so, that our next adoption was of Michael, a 7-year-old boy on the China Waiting Child list, who has only two small fingers on his left hand.

Without much help from us, Mike adjusts to just about every situation he encounters. He is an active 15-year-old who plays sports, including basketball, where he is able to shoot a left-handed layup. He types rather quickly, using the hunt and peck method. When open-

ing containers, he holds the container against his body with his left hand, and opens the lid with his right hand. It just takes an extra step.

We then adopted our daughter Liana when she was 22-months-old. She was also a Waiting Child with a special need. She was born without a right foot, a condition called fibular hemimelia.

Not long after we came home with Liana, she was fitted for a prosthetic leg. The adjustment to wearing a prosthesis took her about a month of physical therapy and wearing the leg for several 30 minute periods every day. She is now an active 8-year-old who is a level-4 gymnast. On the beam, Liana takes an extra step or two to complete her routine. In March, she took 3rd place all-around at a meet. It just takes an extra step.



Liana Burkhart after a successful gymnastic competition.



We miss you! Do you have a new email address or plan on moving soon? Update us on adopt.childrenshope.net.

China's Special Waiting Children

Tina Qualls, China Program Director

Adopting a child through the Waiting Children's Program can be very rewarding. Children who are placed on China's "waiting child" list come with a wide variety of special needs. Whether it is an under-formed limb like Duane's (photo to the right), cleft lip/palate, heart defects, blindness or developmental delays, these waiting children need a home. There are also children who are 8 and older who are waiting.

But when adopting a child with special needs there are many questions you should consider. Are you prepared to parent a child with certain disabilities but not others? Research specific special needs to help you work through your feelings and abilities. You also need to consider the services your child may

require. Look over your health insurance, local hospitals, and local specialists that can treat your child if needed. Your child may need physical therapy, speech therapy or a specialized school, are these available in your area? Your family's life style and dynamics are important as well. Will your adopted child be able to do the things that your family enjoys?

Just because a child has a special need doesn't mean that they are not healthy. Most waiting children lead a very normal and healthy life and with your love will be able to do just about anything.

Watch a Webinar on adopting a child with special needs at: ChildrensHope.net.

Considering a special child?



Duane needs a loving home
China
22 months old
Limb deformity



HAGUE ACCREDITED

Rural Chinese children with Cerebral Palsy receive weeks of therapy while family members learn the techniques to use back home where there are no therapists.



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2010 Reunion Registration Inside